

The Albania Airport Arrival Handbook

Everything you need for a smooth arrival at Tirana International Airport — and beyond.

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Your First 10 Minutes at TIA

Tirana International Airport (IATA: TIA) is a modern single-terminal airport approximately 17 km northwest of the city. Here is exactly what happens between landing and leaving the building.

- 1 Land and disembark**
Follow signs for passport control. Signage is in Albanian and English throughout.
- 2 Passport control**
EU/EEA holders clear quickly. Non-EU passengers join the general queue. Albania is not in Schengen so all passengers go through full control. Allow 5 to 15 minutes.
- 3 Baggage claim**
One main carousel area. Your flight number is displayed on the screen above. Luggage typically arrives 15 to 20 minutes after landing.
- 4 Customs**
Most passengers with standard luggage walk through without being stopped. Standard duty-free allowances apply.
- 5 Exit to arrivals hall**
Push through the arrivals doors. Your pre-booked driver is directly ahead with a name sign. Taxi rank and bus stop are outside to the left.

Watch out inside the terminal

Unofficial drivers approach passengers inside arrivals. Walk past them. Your legitimate driver waits beyond the exit with your name sign.

Where to Meet Your Driver

Pre-booked transfer drivers from Tirana Airport Shuttle position themselves in the arrivals hall just beyond the customs exit, holding a sign with your name.

Meeting your driver: step by step

Clear passport control and collect luggage. Pass through customs. Exit the arrivals doors and look straight ahead. Your driver holds a printed sign with your name. If not immediately visible, WhatsApp them using the number on your booking confirmation.

P

Name sign

Driver identification

24/7

Any hour, any day

Free

Water on board

Flight tracking is included on every booking.

Delayed? Early? Your driver adjusts automatically. No action required from you.

What's included on every transfer

- Fixed price confirmed before you travel
- Meet and Greet in the arrivals hall with name sign
- Real-time flight tracking, automatic delay adjustment
- Complimentary bottled water for all passengers
- Free child seats on request (infant, toddler, booster)
- English and Italian-speaking driver
- Payment by card or cash at journey end

Book your transfer at tiranaairportshuttle.com

Online booking available 24/7 | WhatsApp: +355 67 604 4052

Getting Around Albania Without Uber

Albania has no Uber, Bolt, or international ride-hailing apps. Here are your real options for getting from the airport and moving around the country.

BEST OPTION

Private Transfer

Pre-booked, fixed price, door to door from the airport to any destination in Albania. Driver meets you in arrivals. Available 24/7. Covers short routes (city center, 20 min) and long routes (Sarande, 3h 30m).

IF NOT PRE-BOOKED

Official Taxi

Outside the arrivals exit to the left. Prices are negotiated, not metered. Agree the fare before getting in. Typical city center fare: 25 to 35 euros.

FOR IN-COUNTRY TRAVEL

Furgons

Shared intercity minibuses used by locals. Very cheap, depart when full. Excellent for travel between cities once in the country. Not at the airport.

LONG ROUTES, BUDGET

Intercity Bus

Buses to Sarande and other southern towns depart from the Tirana bus station (not the airport). Long journey times. Luggage space not guaranteed.

CITY CENTER ONLY

Airport Bus

Bus line 4A runs to central Tirana for under 1 euro. Daytime hours only. Stop is outside arrivals, to the left.

FULL FLEXIBILITY

Rental Car

Car rental desks are in the arrivals area. Best for multi-destination trips. Mountain roads require experience. Book in advance in peak season.

Uber does not operate in Albania. Bolt does not operate in Albania.

Neither app will find drivers anywhere in the country. Plan your transport before you arrive.

The Albanian Riviera: How to Get There

The Albanian Riviera is the Ionian coastline in southern Albania, from Vlore in the north to Ksamil in the south. Getting there from TIA requires 2 to 4 hours by road, crossing the spectacular Llogara Pass.

Destination	Distance	Journey time	Character
Vlore	~147 km	~2h 15m	City, Adriatic meets Ionian
Dhermi	~198 km	~3h 10m	Beach village, limestone cliffs
Himare	~190 km	~3h	Quiet coves, hilltop castle
Sarande	~225 km	~3h 30m	Main resort, opposite Corfu
Ksamil	~232 km	~3h 40m	Albania's best beach

The Llogara Pass

L

All routes to Dhermi, Himare, Sarande, and Ksamil cross the Llogara Pass at 1,027 m above sea level. The view from the summit over the Ionian Sea is one of the most spectacular moments of any Albanian trip. Ask your driver to stop at the viewpoint on the way down.

Planning your Riviera transfer

Book your transfer before you fly. Riviera routes are the most requested in peak season.

- July and August are the busiest months. Coastal roads can be slow on weekend afternoons.
- June and September are the sweet spot: warm sea, fewer crowds, easier bookings.
- Your driver can take you to any hotel or apartment address. No need to arrange onward transport.
- The journey south crosses dramatically different landscapes: plains, mountains, then coastline.
-

See all Riviera transfer routes at tiranaairportshuttle.com/popular-routes

Fixed price confirmed before you travel. Door to door from Tirana Airport.

Essential Tips for First-Time Visitors

No Uber or Bolt

Neither app operates in Albania. Pre-book your airport transfer before you fly. For in-city trips in Tirana, hotel-arranged taxis are the most reliable option.

Currency: Albanian Lek

1 EUR = approx. 100 ALL. ATMs are at the airport and throughout the country. Euros are accepted in tourist areas but lek gives better value. Always carry some cash.

Buy a local SIM card

Available at the airport. Albanian data is cheap. Google Maps offline Albania is essential for navigation. WhatsApp is how everyone communicates.

Albania is safe

Low violent crime rate. The main caution for arrivals is taxi overcharging at the airport. Pre-booking a transfer eliminates this entirely.

No visa for most nationalities

EU, UK, US, Canadian, Australian and many other passport holders can enter visa-free for up to 90 days. Albania is not in the EU or Schengen.

English is widely spoken

Particularly among younger Albanians and in the tourism industry. Italian is also commonly understood. You will manage with English in virtually all tourist situations.

Best time to visit

June and September for warm sea and fewer crowds. July and August are peak season and the Riviera is busy. Spring is excellent for cultural travel.

Water

Tap water is treated but not universally safe to drink. Bottled water is cheap and widely available. Use it for drinking and teeth brushing outside major hotels.

Pre-arrival checklist

- ✓ Book airport transfer before flying | tiranaairportshuttle.com
- ✓ Download Google Maps offline data for Albania
- ✓ Get local SIM card on arrival at the airport
- ✓ Note correct fare for city center (25 to 35 euros by taxi)

Top Destinations from Tirana Airport

Tirana City Center

~18 km | ~20 min

The capital. Start here. Skanderbeg Square, the Blloku district, National History Museum, and the cable car to Mount Dajti.

[Book this transfer > tiranaairportshuttle.com](#)

Berat

~122 km | ~2h

UNESCO World Heritage site. The City of a Thousand Windows. Ottoman architecture, medieval castle, and a river valley that stops people mid-sentence.

[Book this transfer > tiranaairportshuttle.com](#)

Durres

~35 km | ~35 min

Albania's main port city. Long Adriatic sandy beach, Roman amphitheatre, and excellent seafood. The closest beach destination to the airport.

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Sarande

~225 km | ~3h 30m

Main resort of the southern Riviera. Wide bay, long promenade, Butrint ruins nearby, and Corfu visible on the water.

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Ksamil

~232 km | ~3h 40m

The most photographed destination in Albania. Crystal Ionian water, sandy coves, small islands a short swim from shore.

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Theth

~170 km | ~3h 30m

A remote mountain village in the Albanian Alps. Starting point for the Peaks of the Balkans trek. Extraordinary landscape for serious hikers.

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Book your transfer at [tiranaairportshuttle.com](#)

Fixed price | Driver in arrivals | All Albania destinations | 24/7

TIRANA AIRPORT SHUTTLE

Albania's first dedicated private airport transfer company

Operating since 2021

CONTACT

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